for construction of two crude oil tankers of 86,000 DWT each.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The Central assistance proposed to be given to Cochin Shipyard during 1992–93 has not yet been finalised.

Import and Export Between India and USSR

4939. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of imports and exports between USSR and India from January 1, 1991 till date;

(b) whether USSR has paid the export bills raised by the Indian exporters;

(c) if not, the amount outstanding as on October 31, 1991; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the payments are made by USSR to India Exporters within the frame work of the Trade Agreement for 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per the latest provisional data for the period Jan–Sept 1991 received from DGCI&S exports to USSR were of the order of Rs. 2849 crores and imports were of the order of Rs. 1845 crores.

(b) to (d). Government has received a number of representations that payment for exports made to the USSR had been unduly delayed. However, as it is not mandatory to intimate to the Government cases of delayed payments, the amount outstanding as on October 31st, 1991 is not available. Cases which were referred to the Government were taken up with the Soviet authorities and the payments have since been made or assurances given for an early settlement of the outstandings.

Indo–Vietnam Joint Business Council

4940. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Business Council has been formed by India and Vietnam;

(b) whether studies have been made by the Government to explore the possibilities of Joint ventures in some areas in Vietnam;

(c) whether there is a scope for acceleration of trade between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No specific study has been commissioned by Government on joint ventures in Vietnam. However, possibilities in this field figure in official bilateral discussions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Machinery for different industries, drugs and pharmaceuticals and project goods have been identified as items with good possibilities in the Vietnam market. During the recent visit to Vietnam of Deputy Minister of Commerce increased exchange of delegations and counter trade possibilities were highlighted as a means to expand economic cooperation. Fresh areas such as rock